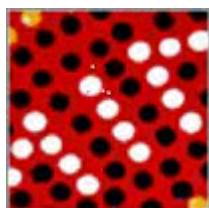


## 2076.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 27/11/2012 First Issue

## Summary

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### CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: CHARACTERISTICS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS

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# **Disability and Carers**

## **DISABILITY AND CARERS**

### **KEY FINDINGS**

In the 2011 Census:

- 5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in private dwellings required assistance with core activities, an increase from 4% in the 2006 Census
- 10% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in non-private dwellings required assistance with core activities, the same proportion as in 2006
- 13% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, an increase from 11% in 2006.

### **NEED FOR ASSISTANCE**

In the 2011 Census, 5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported a need for assistance with core activities, including self-care (eating, washing, dressing or toileting), mobility or communication.

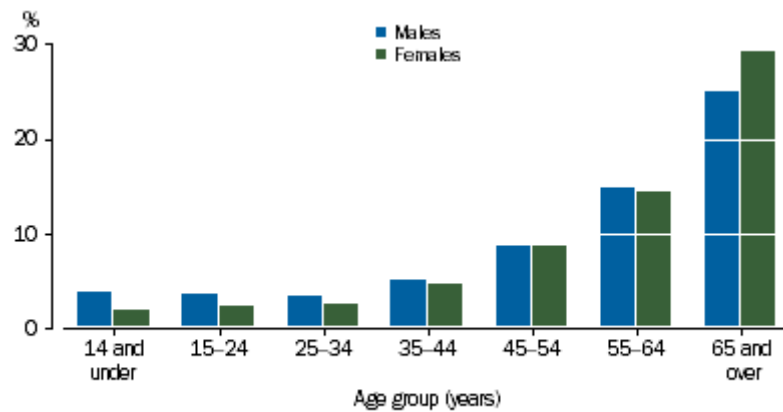
The likelihood of an individual needing assistance with core activities is strongly linked to their age. As the age structure of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is different to that of the non-Indigenous population (see Population Distribution and Structure in this publication), it is recommended that age standardised rates are used when comparing the need for assistance across the two populations. After adjusting for differences in age structure, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were twice as likely as non-Indigenous people to require assistance with core activities (8% compared with 4%).

### **Prevalence by age and sex**

In the 2011 Census, the prevalence of need for assistance increased with age, from 3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 34 years and under, to more than one-quarter (27%) of people aged 65 years and over.

Of those aged 24 years and under, the proportion of males reporting a need for assistance was double that for females (4% compared with 2%). The prevalence of need for assistance among 45 to 54 year olds was the same for both males and females (9%). For persons aged 65 years and over, the prevalence of need for assistance among females was greater than for males (29% compared with 25%).

### **NEED FOR ASSISTANCE, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(a)**



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## Prevalence by dwelling type

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in non-private dwellings were twice as likely to need assistance with core activities as those living in private dwellings (10% compared with 5%). This differs from the non-Indigenous population, where people living in non-private dwellings were seven times more likely to have a need for assistance compared to people living in private dwellings (28% compared with 4%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in non-private dwellings were less likely than non-Indigenous people to live in facilities that provide care to people needing assistance with core activities, such as nursing homes, hospitals or retired and aged accommodation (15% compared with 38%).

Of the 2,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in non-private dwellings who had a need for assistance, about two-thirds (67%) lived in hostels for the disabled, nursing homes, accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained), childcare institutions or other welfare institutions.

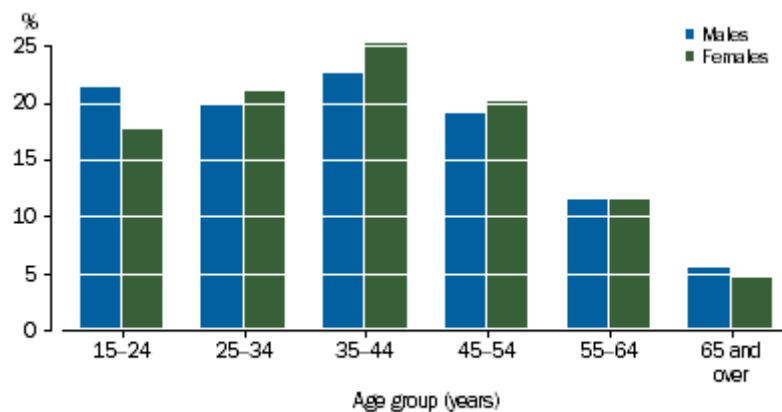
## UNPAID ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

In the two weeks prior to the 2011 Census, 13% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability. This was slightly higher than the rate of unpaid assistance provided by non-Indigenous people (11%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely to provide unpaid assistance than males (16% of females compared with 11% of males).

Of the 43,500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, almost half (45%) were aged 25 to 44 years. The proportion of the population providing unpaid care decreased noticeably among those aged 55 years and over. This corresponds with a significant increase in need for assistance among people aged 55 years and over.

## UNPAID ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(a)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## Education

### EDUCATION

#### KEY FINDINGS

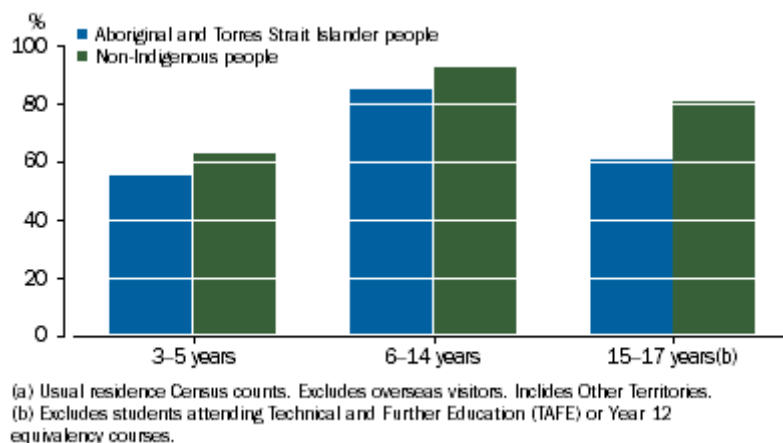
In the 2011 Census:

- 56% of 3 to 5 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attended pre-school or primary school, up from 53% in the 2006 Census
- 61% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 to 17 years were attending secondary school, up from 53% in 2006
- more than one in three (37%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over had attained Year 12 or equivalent and/or Certificate II or higher qualification, up from 30% in 2006.

#### EDUCATION ATTENDANCE

In the 2011 Census, 56% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 3 to 5 years attended pre-school or primary school compared with 63% of non-Indigenous children of the same age. Of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 to 14 years, 85% attended primary or secondary school compared with 93% of non-Indigenous children. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 to 17 years were also less likely to be attending secondary school than non-Indigenous people (61% compared with 81%).

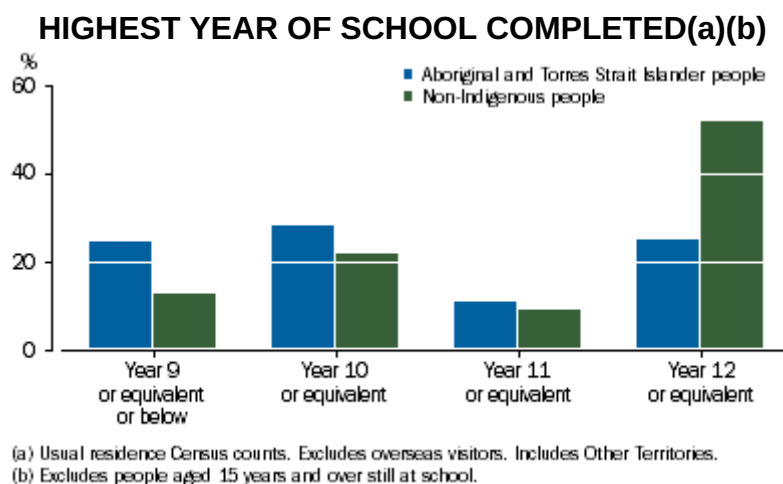
#### ATTENDANCE AT PRE-SCHOOL, PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL(a)(b)



## HIGHEST YEAR OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

In the 2011 Census, one-quarter (25%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over reported Year 12 or equivalent as the highest year of school completed, compared with about half (52%) of non-Indigenous people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over who were not attending secondary school were more likely than non-Indigenous people to report Year 10 or equivalent as the highest year of school completed (29% compared with 22%). One-quarter (25%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over reported their highest year of school completed as Year 9 or equivalent or below, almost double the proportion of non-Indigenous people (13%).



## NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS

In the 2011 Census, about one-quarter (26%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over reported a non-school qualification compared with about half (49%) of non-Indigenous people. The most common non-school qualification for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was at the Certificate level (65%). Of these, 77% were Certificate III or Certificate IV qualifications.

## Household and Family Composition

# HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY COMPOSITION

## KEY FINDINGS

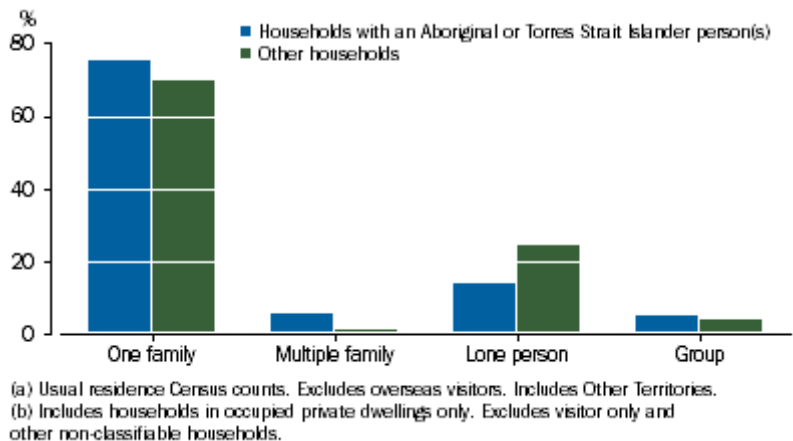
In the 2011 Census:

- 6% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were multiple family households up from 5% in 2006
- one-parent families with dependent children accounted for 29% of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one family households, down from 30% in 2006
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households had an average of 3.3 people per household, the same as in 2006.

## HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

In the 2011 Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were more likely than other households to be family households (81% compared with 71%) and less likely to be lone person households (14% compared with 25%). Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, 6% were multiple family households, compared with 2% of other households.

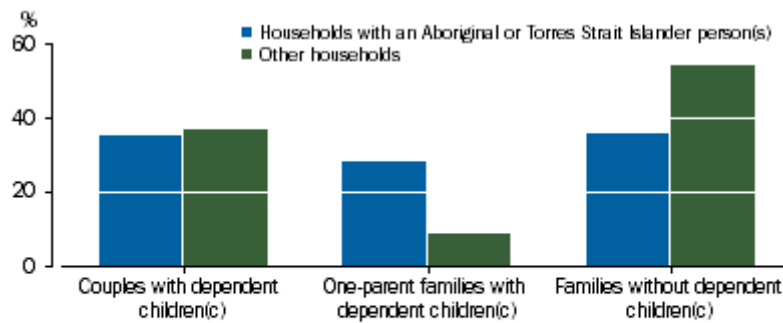
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION(a)(b)



## ONE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

Of all one family households, more than one-third (35%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were couples with dependent children, similar to the proportion of other households (37%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one family households were more than three times as likely as other one family households to be one-parent families with dependent children (29% compared with 9%) and were less likely to be families without dependent children (36% compared with 54%).

ONE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS(a)(b)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.  
 (b) Includes households in occupied private dwellings only. Excludes visitor only and other non-classifiable households.  
 (c) Dependent children are defined as children under 15 years of age or those aged 15 to 24 years who are full-time students.

## FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households had an average of 3.3 people per household in 2011, compared with an average of 2.6 people for other households. One factor contributing to this difference is the higher number of dependent children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households when compared with other households. Of all families with children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families were less likely than other families to have one or two dependent children (59% compared with 62%) and more than twice as likely to have four or more dependent children (10% compared with 4%).

## Housing

### HOUSING

#### KEY FINDINGS

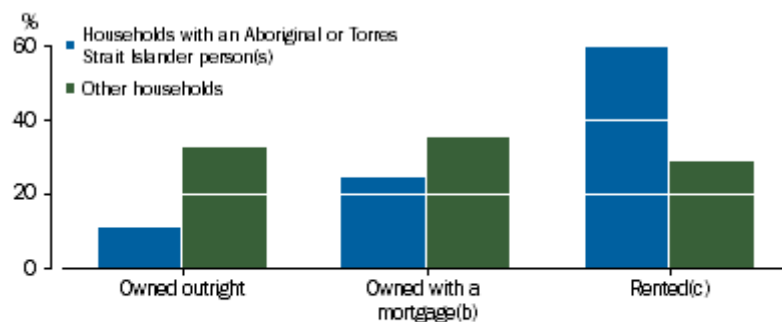
In the 2011 Census:

- 59% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were renting, down from 60% in the 2006 Census
- 11% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households owned their home outright, the same as in 2006
- 25% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households owned their home with a mortgage, up from 23% in 2006.

#### HOUSING TENURE

In the 2011 Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were more likely to rent their home (59%) than own their home with a mortgage (25%) or own their home outright (11%). In comparison, other households were more likely to own their home (68%) than rent (29%). The median monthly housing loan repayment was \$1,647 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households that owned their home with a mortgage, compared with \$1,800 for non-Indigenous households.

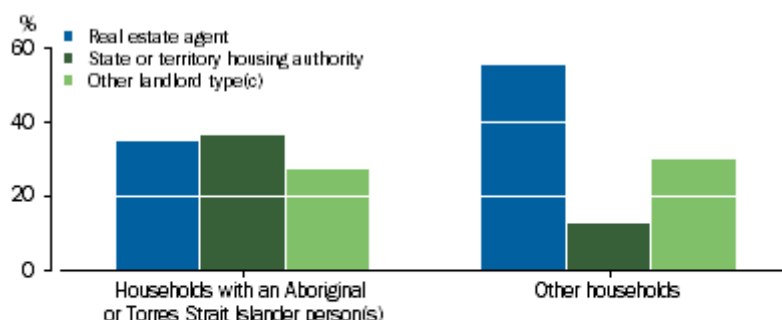
#### HOUSING TENURE(a)



(a) Occupied private dwellings excluding visitor only and other non-classifiable households. Includes Other Territories.  
 (b) Includes dwellings being purchased under a rent/buy scheme.  
 (c) Includes rent free accommodation.

About twice as many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households rented their homes as other households (59% compared with 29%). Of those households that rented, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households were less likely than other households to rent from a real estate agent (35% compared with 55%) and three times more likely to rent from state or territory housing authorities (36% compared with 12%). The median weekly rent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households was \$195, while the median weekly rent for non-Indigenous households was \$290.

### RENTERS(a)(b)



(a) Includes households in dwellings occupied rent-free.  
 (b) Includes households in occupied private dwellings. Excludes visitor only and other non-classifiable households. Includes Other Territories.  
 (c) Includes relative/other person, residential park, employer and housing co-operative/community/church group. Excludes landlord type not stated.

## NON-PRIVATE DWELLINGS

In the 2011 Census, 25,900 (5%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were counted in non-private dwellings such as hotels/motels, hostels, corrective facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, cared accommodation and boarding houses. Of those counted in non-private dwellings, 30% were counted in an adult prison or corrective institution, 14% in a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast, 11% in a boarding school and 7% in a hospital.

## Income

### INCOME



# KEY FINDINGS

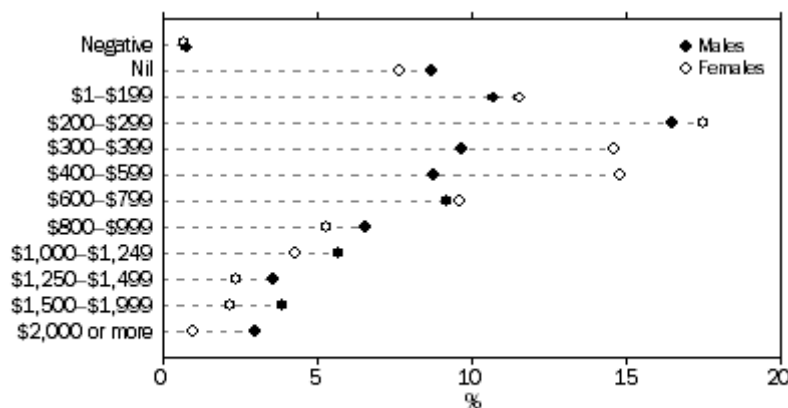
In the 2011 Census:

- 13% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over reported a gross personal income of \$1,000 or more per week
- 56% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported an equivalised weekly household income between \$200 and \$799.

# INDIVIDUAL INCOME

In the 2011 Census, 13% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over reported a gross personal income of \$1,000 or more per week. Males were more likely to report an income of \$1,000 or more per week than females (16% compared with 10%). Over half (52%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over reported a personal income between \$1 and \$599 per week, with females more likely to report an income in this range than males (58% compared with 46%).

# PERSONAL INCOME, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over(a)



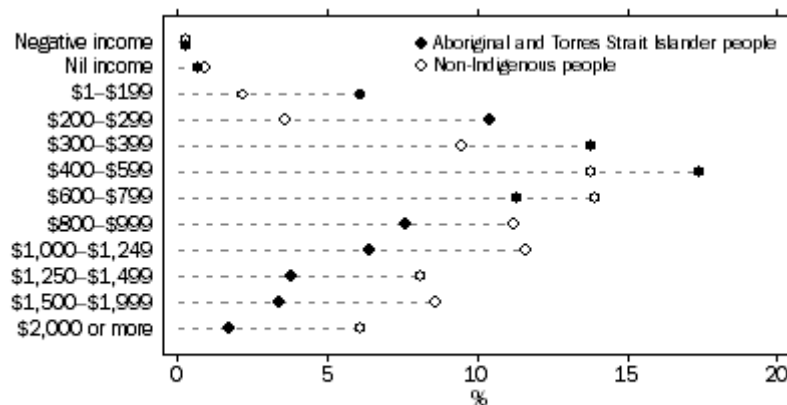
(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

# EQUIVALISED HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Over half (56%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported an equivalised weekly household income between \$200 and \$799. In comparison, 51% of non-Indigenous people reported an equivalised weekly household income of between \$400 and \$1,249.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were less likely than non-Indigenous people to report an equivalised weekly household income of \$1,000 or more (13% compared with 33%). In the 2011 Census, 1% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported an equivalised weekly household income of \$2,000 or more, compared with 6% of non-Indigenous people.

# EQUIVALISED WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME(a)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## Internet Access

### INTERNET ACCESS

#### KEY FINDINGS

- In the 2011 Census, 63% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households reported having an internet connection, up from 40% in 2006.

#### HOUSEHOLDS WITH INTERNET ACCESS

Almost two-thirds (63%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households reported having an internet connection in the 2011 Census, compared with 77% of other households.

Broadband was the most frequently used type of internet connection for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households and other households. Of the 131,300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households with an internet connection, 85% most frequently connected to the internet using Broadband, 11% most frequently used 'other' types of connections (e.g. mobile phones) and 4% most frequently used Dial-up connections.

#### INTERNET ACCESS BY AGE

Around six in 10 (59%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in a household with an internet connection, compared with just over eight in 10 (84%) non-Indigenous people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 24 years and under were more likely to live in a dwelling with an internet connection than those aged 55 years and over (63% compared with 42%). A similar pattern was observed for non-Indigenous people, with 91% of people aged 24 years and under living in a dwelling with an internet connection compared with 67% of those aged 55 years and over.

## Labour Force

### LABOUR FORCE

## KEY FINDINGS

Note: It is important to distinguish between Census labour force data, and the monthly labour force statistics that are released by the ABS. The monthly labour force statistics are Australia's official measure of unemployment, with data collected by interview over an eight month period from a sample of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. The 2011 Census collected labour force information from all persons in Australia aged 15 years and over who were counted on Census night.

In the 2011 Census, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recorded:

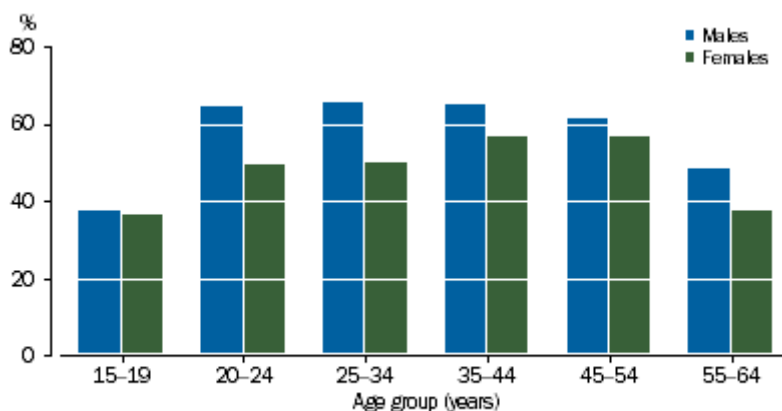
- a labour force participation rate of 51%, the same as in the 2006 Census
- an employment to population ratio of 42%, down from 43% in 2006
- an unemployment rate of 17%, up from 16% in 2006.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR FORCE

In the 2011 Census, about half (51%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over were participating in the labour force. The participation rate was higher for males (55%) than females (46%).

The participation rate for non-Indigenous people aged 15 years and over was 13 percentage points higher (64%) than for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. When the population is restricted to people aged 15 to 64 years in order to adjust for the larger proportion of older people in the non-Indigenous population (with their lower participation rates), the difference in labour force participation rates between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and the non-Indigenous population increases to 23 percentage points (53% compared with 76% respectively).

### LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(a)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## EMPLOYMENT

In the 2011 Census, about two in five (42%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over were employed (employment to population ratio), compared with about three in five non-Indigenous people (61%). A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males (45%) were employed than females (39%).

Of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were employed:

- 92% were employees, 6% worked in their own business and 1% were contributing family workers
- 75% were employed in the private sector and 23% worked in the public sector
- 59% worked full-time hours and 32% worked part-time hours
- 19% reported their highest level of education was Year 10 or equivalent and a further 17% had completed Year 12 or equivalent
- 38% had a non-school qualification
- 18% were employed as labourers and 17% as community and personal service workers, while professionals, clerical and administrative workers and technicians and trade workers each accounted for 13% of employees.

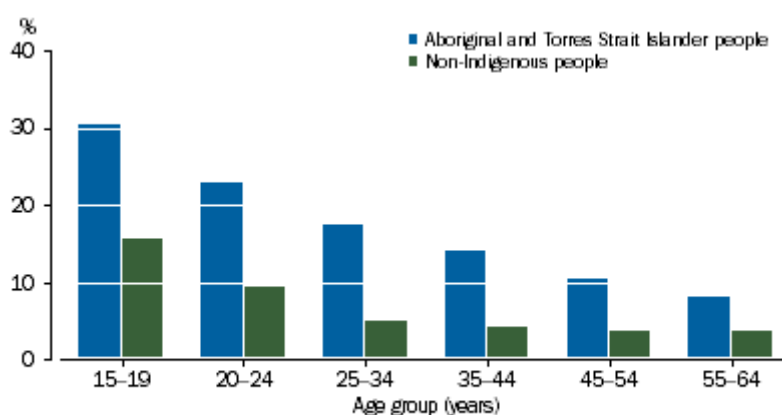
There were 4,800 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over identified as Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants in the 2011 Census. Two-thirds (66%) of CDEP participants reported working part-time hours, compared with one-third (32%) of all employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Almost one-quarter (24%) of CDEP participants had a non-school qualification.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over in the 2011 Census was 17%. The unemployment rate for males (18%) was higher than for females (16%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were about three times more likely than non-Indigenous people to be unemployed (17% compared with 5%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 to 19 years recorded the highest unemployment rate (31%). A similar pattern was observed for the non-Indigenous population, where those aged 15 to 19 years also had the highest unemployment rate (16%). The unemployment rate for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people was progressively lower in the older age groups, dropping to 8% and 4% respectively for people aged 55 to 64 years.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## VOLUNTARY WORK

In the 2011 Census, 13% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and

over reported that they had done voluntary work for an organisation or group in the previous 12 months, compared with 19% of non-Indigenous people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females were more likely than males to have volunteered (14% compared with 12%).

## Language

### LANGUAGE

#### KEY FINDINGS

In the 2011 Census:

- 83% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people spoke English only at home, compared with 82% in the 2006 Census
- 11% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people spoke an Australian Indigenous language at home, the same proportion as in 2006
- 82% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who spoke an Indigenous language at home reported speaking English well or very well, up from 79% in 2006
- 17% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who spoke an Indigenous language at home reported not speaking English well or at all, down from 19% in 2006.

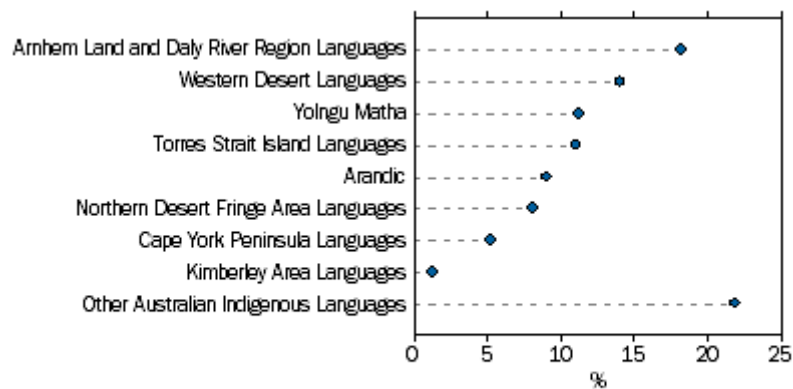
#### LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME

In the 2011 Census, 83% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported speaking only English at home, similar to the proportion of non-Indigenous people (80%).

About one in 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (11%) reported speaking an Australian Indigenous language at home. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25 to 44 years were most likely to speak an Indigenous language at home (13%), followed closely by those aged 15 to 24 years and those aged 45 years and over (both 11%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 14 years and under were least likely to speak an Indigenous language (10%) and most likely to speak only English at home (85%).

Of the Australian Indigenous languages spoken at home, languages in the Arnhem Land and Daly River Region Languages and Western Desert Languages groups were the most widely spoken (18% and 14% respectively). The next most prominent language groups spoken at home were Yolngu Matha and Torres Strait Island Languages (11% each).

#### **AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPEAKERS BY LANGUAGE GROUP(a), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(b)**

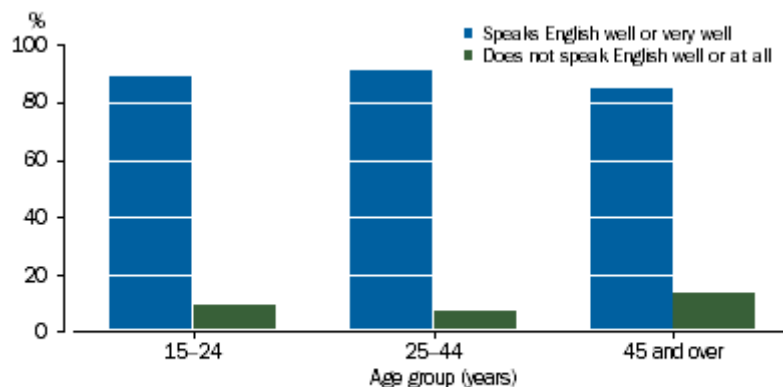


(a) Calculated as proportion of total number of Indigenous language speakers.  
(b) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

Of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who spoke an Australian Indigenous language at home, the majority (82%) reported speaking English well or very well, while 17% reported they did not speak English well or at all. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25 to 44 years reported the highest rate of speaking English well or very well (91%).

### AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SPEAKERS BY PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH(a), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(b)



(a) Excludes people who did not state proficiency in spoken English.  
(b) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## Mobility

### MOBILITY

#### KEY FINDINGS

Between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses:

- 52% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had not changed address, up

from 49% between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses

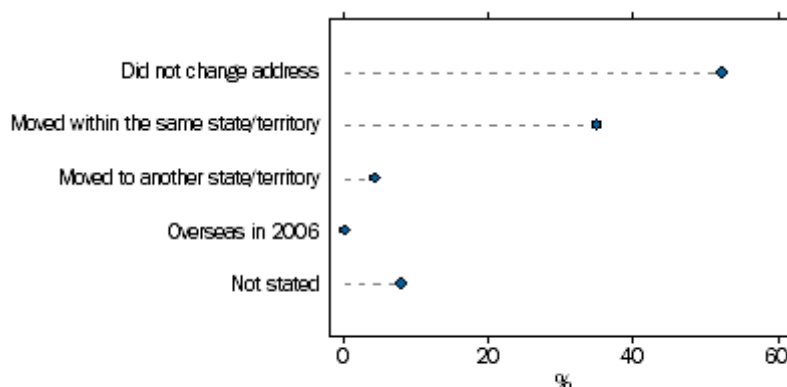
- 35% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had moved to a different address within the same state or territory, down from 37% between 2001 and 2006
- 4% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had moved interstate, compared with 5% between 2001 and 2006.

## MOBILITY PATTERNS

Information about people who changed their place of usual residence between 2006 and 2011 is restricted to people aged 5 years and over in 2011.

In 2011, about half (52%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported living at the same address as in the 2006 Census. Just over one-third (35%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had moved to a different address within the same state or territory and 4% had moved to another state or territory since 2006.

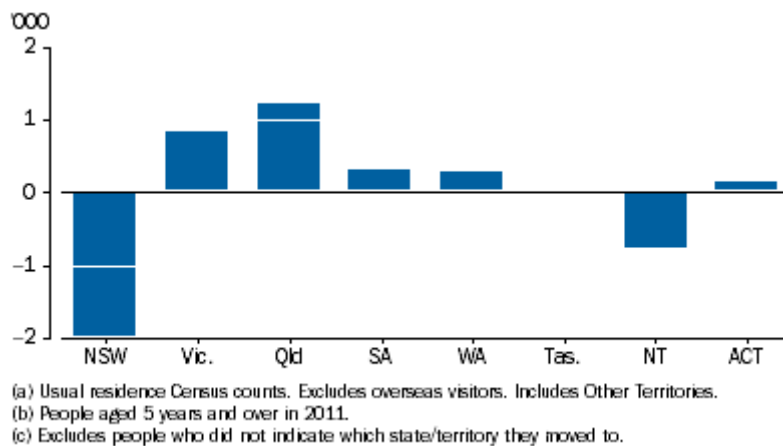
### MOBILITY BETWEEN 2006 AND 2011, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(a)(b)



(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.  
(b) People aged 5 years and over in 2011.

Of those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who reported that they had moved interstate between 2006 and 2011, Queensland recorded the highest net gain (1,200), followed by Victoria (800). New South Wales and the Northern Territory recorded the greatest net losses (2,000 and 800 respectively).

### NET EFFECT OF INTERSTATE MOBILITY BETWEEN 2006 AND 2011, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(a)(b)(c)



## Population Distribution and Structure

### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND STRUCTURE

#### KEY FINDINGS

In the 2011 Census:

- 548,400 people identified and were counted as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, an increase of 21% from the 2006 Census
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represented 2.5% of the 2011 Census count, up from 2.3% in 2006
- the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 21 years, compared with 20 years in 2006.

#### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

In the 2011 Census, 548,400 people identified and were counted as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, representing 2.5% of the Census count.

New South Wales had the highest count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (172,600 or 32% of the national total), followed by Queensland (155,800 or 28%) and Western Australia (69,700 or 13%). Combined, these three states made up almost three-quarters (73%) of people who identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of the population counted as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (27%), while Victoria had the lowest proportion at less than 1% of the state total.

#### 2011 CENSUS COUNTS(a)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous status

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



	no.	%	people no	unknown no.	Total no.	people as proportion of total population %
New South Wales	172 624	31.5	6 402 111	342 923	6 917 658	2.5
Victoria	37 991	6.9	5 069 156	246 893	5 354 040	0.7
Queensland	155 825	28.4	3 952 706	224 206	4 332 737	3.6
South Australia	30 431	5.5	1 503 205	62 934	1 596 570	1.9
Western Australia	69 665	12.7	2 038 786	130 719	2 239 170	3.1
Tasmania	19 625	3.6	456 345	19 380	495 350	4.0
Northern Territory	56 779	10.4	137 774	17 391	211 944	26.8
Australian Capital Territory	5 184	0.9	338 030	14 005	357 219	1.5
<b>Australia(b)</b>	<b>548 370</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19 900 764</b>	<b>1 058 586</b>	<b>21 507 719</b>	<b>2.5</b>

(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

Note: Totals and components may not be consistent within and between tables due to introduced random error to protect confidentiality of Census respondents – see Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

Of the states and territories, the highest proportional increases between the 2006 and 2011 Census for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (34%), Victoria (26%) and New South Wales (25%).

### CENSUS COUNTS(a), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

	2006 no.	2011 no.	Change between 2006 and 2011 %
New South Wales	138 507	172 624	24.6
Victoria	30 143	37 991	26.0
Queensland	127 580	155 825	22.1
South Australia	25 556	30 431	19.1
Western Australia	58 710	69 665	18.7
Tasmania	16 768	19 625	17.0
Northern Territory	53 661	56 779	5.8
Australian Capital Territory	3 875	5 184	33.8
<b>Australia(b)</b>	<b>455 028</b>	<b>548 370</b>	<b>20.5</b>

(a) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors.

(b) Includes Other Territories.

Note: Totals and components may not be consistent within and between tables due to introduced random error to protect confidentiality of Census respondents – see Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

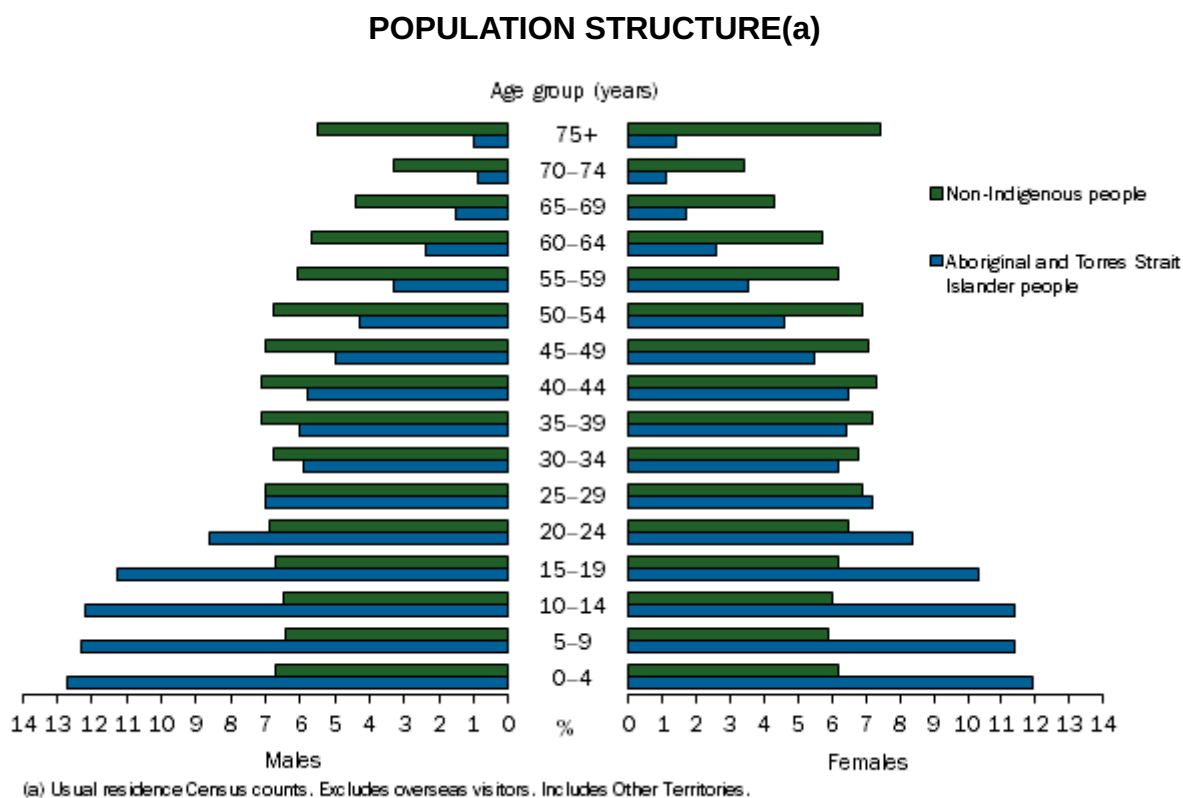
More information on the population distribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is available in Census of Population and Housing – Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011 (cat. no. 2075.0).

### POPULATION STRUCTURE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population has a younger age distribution than the non-Indigenous population with a median age of 21 years in the 2011 Census, compared

with 38 years for non-Indigenous people. This is a small increase from 2006, when the median age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 20 years. In 2011, the median age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females was 20 years and 22 years respectively.

In the 2011 Census, children under the age of 15 years made up 36% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, compared with 19% of the non-Indigenous population. Six in 10 (60%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were aged between 15 and 64 years compared with almost seven in 10 (67%) non-Indigenous people. The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 65 years and over was considerably smaller than for non-Indigenous people (4% compared with 14%).



## Unpaid Childcare

### UNPAID CHILDCARE

#### KEY FINDINGS

In the 2011 Census:

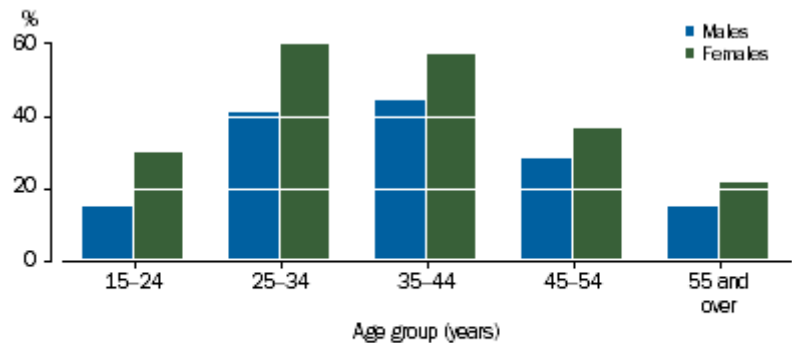
- 35% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over provided unpaid childcare, up from 33% in 2006
- 10% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over cared for someone else's child(ren) only without pay, up from 9% in 2006.

## PROVISION OF UNPAID CHILDCARE BY AGE AND SEX

In the two weeks prior to the 2011 Census, over one-third (35%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over cared for their child(ren) and/or someone else's child(ren) without pay. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25 to 44 years were most likely to have provided unpaid childcare (51%), while those aged 55 years and over were the least likely (19%).

Overall, females were more likely than males to have provided unpaid childcare (41% compared with 27%). Provision of unpaid childcare was most common among females aged 25 to 34 years (60%) followed by females and males aged 35 to 44 years (57% and 44% respectively). The greatest contrast was in the 15 to 24 year age group, where females were twice as likely as males to have provided unpaid childcare (30% compared with 15%).

### PROVISION OF UNPAID CHILDCARE(a), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(b) by sex

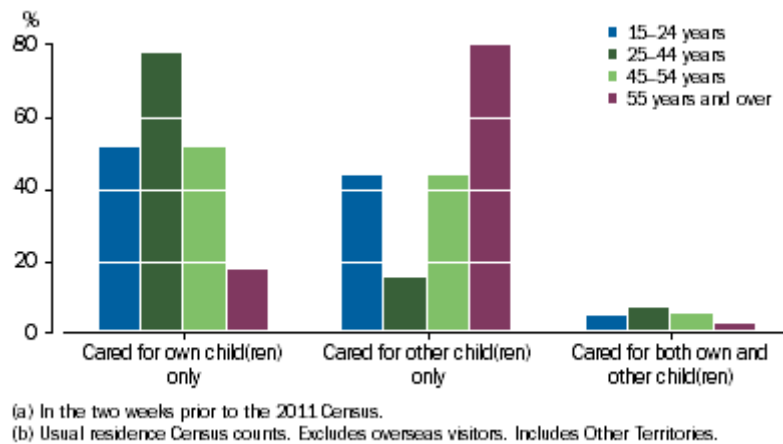


(a) Includes care for own child(ren) only, care for other child(ren) only and care for both own and other child(ren) in the two weeks prior to the 2011 Census.  
(b) Usual residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors. Includes Other Territories.

## RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD

Of those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over who provided unpaid childcare, almost two-thirds (64%) provided care only for their own child(ren) and almost one-third (30%) provided care only for someone else's child(ren). People aged 55 years and over were most likely to have provided unpaid childcare only for someone else's child(ren) (80%), while people aged 25 to 44 years were most likely to have provided care only for their own child(ren) (78%) and for both their own and other child(ren) (7%).

### PROVISION OF UNPAID CHILDCARE(a), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people(b) by relationship to child(ren)



## About this Release

Presents a range of statistics for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia using results of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. It provides a general overview of population structure and distribution, mobility, household composition, language, education, work, income, housing, and need for assistance. This information provides insights into the contemporary social and economic situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

## History of Changes

**This document was added or updated on 28/11/2012.**

28/11/2012 - this datacube has been replaced due to a broken link.

## Explanatory Notes

### Explanatory Notes

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication presents counts from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing for people who both identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin and were counted in the Census.

**2** The 2011 Census of Population and Housing was held on 9 August 2011. The objective of

the Census is to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia and the dwellings in which they live, on Census Night. This provides a reliable basis for the estimation of the population of each of the states, territories and local government areas primarily for electoral purposes and the distribution of government funds. It also provides information about the characteristics of the population and its housing within small geographic areas and for small population groups. Census data supports a range of planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of government and other data users.

## INDIGENOUS STATUS

**3** The question about Indigenous status on the Census form asks whether each person is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. The 1996 Census was the first Census to allow people's origins to be recorded as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; prior to this, only one or the other could be recorded. This question format has been repeated in subsequent Censuses, including the 2011 Census.

**4** For more information on definitional changes and Census questions, refer to the Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

## SCOPE AND COVERAGE

**5** The 2011 Census of Population and Housing was held on 9 August 2011. Australia's first national Census was held in 1911 and since 1961 a Census has been taken every five years, the frequency specified in the **Census and Statistics Act (1905)**. The objective of the Census is to count the number of people in Australia on Census Night, identifying their key characteristics and those of the dwellings in which they live.

**6** Following changes to the Australian Constitution as a result of the 1967 Referendum, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were included in official estimates of the Australian population. As a consequence, from the 1976 Census onwards, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has developed and improved strategies to count the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population throughout Australia.

**7** The Census aims to count every person who spent Census Night in Australia. This includes Australian residents in Antarctica and Other Territories – Jervis Bay, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island. The other Australian External Territories (Norfolk Island and minor islands such as Heard and McDonald Islands) are outside the scope of the Australian Census. The only people who are excluded from the Census are foreign diplomats and their families.

**8** The Census includes people on vessels in or between Australian ports as well as people on board long distance trains, buses or aircraft. Also included are those people outside Australia who are not required to undertake migration formalities, such as those on oil and gas rigs or on Australian Antarctic bases. People entering Australia before midnight on Census Night are counted, while people leaving an Australian port for an overseas destination before midnight on Census Night are not. Visitors to Australia are included regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. However, for people who intend to be in Australia for less than 12 months, only basic demographic data are available. The Census includes homeless people and people camping out.

**9** All occupied dwellings are counted in the Census with the exception of diplomatic

dwellings. Unoccupied private dwellings are also counted, with the exception of unoccupied dwellings in caravan parks, marinas and manufactured home estates (self-contained dwellings that are built off-site and then transported to the estate for installation). Unoccupied residences of owners, managers or caretakers of such establishments are counted.

## **ENUMERATION PROCEDURES**

**10** In order to achieve the most accurate count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Census, the ABS developed an Indigenous Enumeration Strategy. This Strategy was first introduced in the 1976 Census for remote areas of WA and NT, and has been expanded and improved for subsequent Censuses. This strategy aims to be culturally appropriate and to raise the quality of the Census counts for this population group.

**11** The 2011 Census Indigenous Enumeration Strategy incorporated improvements to enumeration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban areas, as well as those living in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. At a broad level, the improvements for the 2011 Census included:

- earlier and ongoing engagement
- a reduction in the overall enumeration period for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- an increase in the number of field staff recruited
- a greater level of support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people requiring assistance in completing their form, in both urban and remote areas.

**12** In the majority of discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, an interview approach was used, with local people employed and trained to conduct the interviews.

**13** In pre-identified urban areas increased support and assistance were provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including the option of collecting Census information through an interview.

**14** For more information on the Indigenous Enumeration Strategy refer to 2011 Census Fact sheet [Enumeration Procedures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples](#) available on the ABS website.

## **LIMITATIONS OF CENSUS DATA**

**15** There are four principal sources of error in Census data: respondent error, processing error, partial response and undercount. Quality assurance processes in the Census program aim to reduce error as much as possible, and to provide a measure of the remaining error to data users, to allow them to use the data in an informed way.

**16** The [Census Dictionary, 2011](#) (cat. no. 2901.0) provides more information on [managing Census data quality](#).

## **DATA PRESENTATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

**17** The proportions of the population shown in the tables in this publication include 'not stated' responses in the denominator. For example, the proportion of people in Australia who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin is calculated by dividing the number of persons identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin by the total population,

and expressing the result as a percentage. The 'total population' includes records coded to 'not stated'.

**18** The Census counts presented in this publication are based on usual residence. For information on usual residence and place of enumeration refer to the Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

**19** Under the **Census and Statistics Act (1905)** it is an offence to release any information collected under the Act that is likely to enable identification of any particular individual or organisation. Introduced random error is used to ensure that no data are released which could risk the identification of individuals in the statistics.

**20** Care is taken in the specification of tables to minimise the risk of identifying individuals. In addition, a technique has been developed to randomly adjust cell values. Random adjustment of the data is considered to be the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of Census data that may identify individuals. When the technique is applied, all cells are adjusted to prevent any such data being exposed. These adjustments result in small introduced random errors. However, the information value of the table as a whole is not impaired. For more detail refer to introduced random error in the Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

## POPULATION ESTIMATES

**21** Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months. In the compilation of the ERP, important adjustments are made to the Census count based on place of usual residence. For further information about ERP, see Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0).

**22** The ABS is undertaking a program of work based on results of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing and the 2011 Census Post Enumeration Survey (PES) to compile and release estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at 30 June 2011. Preliminary estimates at 30 June 2011 are available in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) from the March quarter 2012 issue (released on 27 September 2012) onwards. These preliminary estimates are published by five year age groups, sex and state/territory of usual residence. Further disaggregation will be available when the final estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at 30 June 2011 are published in **Population Estimates, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011** (cat. no. 3238.0.55.001), scheduled for release in August 2013.

**23** For further information regarding this work program see Information Paper: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Demographic Statistics Work Program and Release Plans, Apr 2012 (cat. no. 3238.0.55.003).

## RELATED INFORMATION

**24** Additional information on data quality in the 2011 Census is available on the ABS website and the Census portal. Specific information on non-response rates, and conceptual and data issues can also be found on the Census portal.

**25** Further information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statistics from the 2011 Census will be included in forthcoming ABS publications.

## Data Quality Declaration

### 2011 Census of Population and Housing — Quality declaration

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